

Libby

HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J.S. RANSON, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To The Chairman and Members of the Halstead Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Once again I have the honour of presenting to you an Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District during the year. The health of the District has been exceptionally good and the number of cases of notifiable disease has been exceedingly low.

Only two cases of tuberculosis were notified and a visit of the Mass Radiography Unit during July was met with a good response and the findings were low. It was two years since the first visit of the unit and it is to be hoped that this work will soon be carried out annually.

Much has already been said about the housing problem and you are aware that in spite of the building of many Council houses, very little has been done to re-construct or demolish old house property.

The Council decided during the year to discontinue the making of improvement grants, but it is anticipated that this resolution may be rescinded. It must be hoped that every encouragement may be given to owners to bring existing property up to the standard of a modern council house. One cannot imagine children born and brought up in one of the Council's houses being content in later life to become tenants of many of the existing sub-standard houses in the town.

I have the honour to be
Your sincere servant,

J.S. Ranson.

SECTION A - STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.....	1232.
Population (Registrar General's estimate).....	6360.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books (End of 1955).....	2292.
Rateable Value.....	£33, 331.
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£126. 18. 1d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	Total..	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	76.	40.	36.
Illegitimate.	5.	3.	2.
Still births.	2.	1.	1.
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....	11.0.		
Birth rate (corrected by comparability figure)	12.2.		
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (England and Wales).....	15.0		
Still birth rate per 1,000 (Live and still) births...	24.0.		
Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births England and Wales.....	23.1		
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate).....	95.		
Death rate per 1,000 resident population.....	14.9.		
Death rate (corrected by comparability figure of 0.75.	11.7.		
Death Rate (England and Wales).....	11.3.		
Death Rate of infants per 1,000 live births.....	37.0.		
Deaths of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	48.1.		
Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	0.		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	22.		
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages).....	0.		
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0.		

Deaths at various age groups during 1955.

(registered and transferred).

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Number of Deaths.</u>
Under one year.	4.
1 and under 2 years.	1.
2 and under 5 years.	-.
5 and under 15 years.	1.
15 and under 25 years.	3.
25 and under 35 years.	2.
35 and under 45 years.	-.
45 and under 55 years.	7.
55 and under 65 years.	2.
65 and under 75 years.	32.
75 and under 85 years.	34.
85 and under 95 years.	18.
95 and upwards.	0.
Total.....	104.

Causes of Death.

Registrar General's Figures.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis Resp.	3.
Cancer.	22.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	12.
Coronary disease.	12.
Heart disease.	6.
Other circulatory disease.	3.
Pneumonia.	13.
Bronchitis.	5.
Ulcer of stomach - duodenum.	1.
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.	1.
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1.
Congenital Malformations.	1.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	11.
Motor vehicle accidents.	3.
All other accidents.	1.
Suicide.	0.
	95.

SECTION B. Health Services of the Area.

A. Public Health Officers.

1. J.S. Ranson, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. D.P.H.
2. J.W. Barker. Sanitary Inspector.

B. There have been no changes in the following services during the year.

1. Laboratory Services.

2. Ambulance Service.
3. Nursing in the Home.
4. Hospital Services.
5. Clinics and treatment centre.

The premises formerly used as a Rural District Office were converted into a Health Service Clinic by the County Council and taken over in March 1955.

This clinic satisfies every modern requirement and was badly needed to replace the poor premises previously used for this purpose.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector Mr. J.W. Barker for information and statistics in this section.

Inspections during the year. 1955.	
Inspections and re-inspections.	1760.
Re Pest Control.	29.
Factories (Power)	50.
Factories (Non-Power).	23.
Council Houses.	203.
Re waste of water.	21.
Re Improvement grants to houses.	101.
Places of entertainment.	30.
Re keeping of animals.	14.
Re water complaints.	4.
Re insufficient sanitary accommodation.	8.
Schools.	5.
Accumulations of refuse.	14.
Re supply of dustbins.	16.
Hawkers Vehicles.	11.
Stream Pollution.	7.
Dangerous buildings.	1.
Stalls.	2.
Re Milk and Dairies Regulations.	1.

Nuisances detected and Notices Served.

<u>Nuisances.</u>	Detected.	56.	Abated.	39.
Informal Notices Served.	82.	Complied with	85.	
Statutory Notices Served.	18.	Complied with	1.	
Statutory Notices (further action awaiting)			17.	

<u>Pest Control.</u>	Properties inspected.	1309.
	Infestation located.	62.
	Infestations dealt with.	62.

Water Supply.

With the exception of six houses, the premises within the Urban District receive mains water. A few houses still rely on external stand pipes and others have taps over sinks in outside wash-houses.

The total water consumption is 75/80 million gallons for

all purposes.

Analyses of samples of water.

Fifteen samples of water were taken during the year for analysis from the town's main supply. All of these samples were reported upon as being satisfactory.

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action. 37.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A - Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners. ... Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. ... Nil.

B - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners. 1.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

C - Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. ... Nil.

(3) Number of written undertakings accepted. 1.

D - Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. ... Nil.

E - Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of houses in confirmed clearance areas demolished ... Nil.

F - Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949:-

(1) Closing Orders made under section 3 (1) Nil.

- (2) Demolition orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2) Nil.

G - Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

- (1) Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) Nil.

Overcrowding - Part IV. Housing Act 1936.

No action was taken under this part during the year.

Slum Clearance.

394 houses were reported as being unfit and representations were made in respect of 90 houses.

Consideration was given to the placing of the latter in 5 Clearance Areas, as follows:-

No.1 Area	Head Street and Manfield	12 houses.
No.2 Area	Globe Yard and Parsonage Street	6 "
No.3 Area	Belle Vue, Ivy Yard, & Hedingham Rd.	39 "
No.4 Area	Rose Yard, School Lane & Head St.	9 "
No.5 Area	Trinity Square	24 "

The taking of action to deal with these houses by declaration of Clearance Areas is still pending a decision by the Council that Slum Clearance be suspended for 5 years.

Improvement Grants.

Application for grants received	14
Grants made & work completed during the year	6
" " " " not " " " "	1

The Council decided to cease making any further grants until the general housing position had been reviewed.

Owners of property are at the present unable to obtain any grant for improvements and seven of the above applications are now standing as adjourned.

Inspection of dwelling houses.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for House defects (under Public Health or Housing Act) 486
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purposes. 724.
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses under sub-heading (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Consolidated and Regulations 1925, 1932. 164.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 402.
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 90.
4. Number of dwelling houses (inclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 172.

General Remarks.

It is realised that there are approximately 400 houses in the area that fall short of standard of housing of the present day and of these about 200 are of such faulty original construction that, being incapable of reconditioning, must

ultimately be scheduled for demolition. Many of these are so grouped as to be clearly the object of Clearance Areas and re-planning. Of the remainder, most could be made into satisfactory units of accommodation by thorough repair and reconstruction. The main problem is of course the rehousing of tenants which in most cases must be undertaken by the Council and will involve a great increase in the amount of rent at present paid.

It is however, quite impossible to deal with such property in any other way. As these houses are of doubtful value to their owners in the process of time their condition, unless taken over by owner/occupiers is bound to deteriorate making the problem even more urgent.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections.

Slaughter houses	204
Food preparing premises	138
Food shops	160
Shops	22
Licensed premises	85
Food storage premises	22

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected	369	-	-	653	702	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	2.1	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	54	-	-	-	14	-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Horses
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Carcases of which
some part or organ
was condemned

Generalised and
totally condemned

The quality of meat produced for food by the slaughter of the above animals is of the very highest standard.

Licensed slaughtermen	9
Game dealers	4

4	to use special designation "Tuberculin tested"
4	" " " " "Pasteurised"
4	" " " " "Sterilised"

1	to use special designation	"Tuberculin tested"
1	" "	" " " " "Pasteurised"
1	" "	" " " " "Sterilised"

Premises registered for manufacture	1
Premises registered for sale	23

No. registered 7

For the manufacture of meat pies only	2
" " " " Sausage & meat products	2
" " frying of fish	2

Licensed Premises.

Comments.

Milk. All milk sold in the district with very few exceptions is now pasteurised. This undoubtedly is the cause of some delay in its delivery to the consumer. It seems that this delay might be obviated.

Ice Cream. All samples taken were reported upon as being satisfactory.

Bakehouses. Considerable attention has been given to bakehouses during the year and some still require work to be done to bring them up to the necessary standard of fitness.

One baker ceased production during the year. One baker brought his premises up to the necessary standard.

One bakehouse was the subject of a special report by the Sanitary Inspector, with the result that a very considerable improvement was effected. A few minor details still require attention, which is being given.

Food Preparation Premises.

Number in district	8
Number in excellent state of order	1

Others require attention with regard to such matters as ventilation and further cleanliness.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number in district	2
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The condition of one of these shops has been far from satisfactory, but now work is in hand to bring it up to the required standard of fitness.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.

Cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Infectious Jaundice.	1	-	-
Measles.	20	-	-
Whooping Cough.	1	-	-
Erysipelas.	0	-	-
Cerebro - spinal. meningitis.	0	-	-
Pneumonia.	0	-	-
Scarlet fever.	1	-	-
	<u>23</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Tuberculosis - Cases Notified.

<u>Adults.</u> Pulmonary.	Male 1.	<u>Children</u> Pulmonary.	Male 0.
	Female 1.		Female 0.

Non-Pulmonary.	Nil.	Non-Pulmonary.	Nil.
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Tuberculosis deaths.

Adults - Pulmonary - Males 3.

Mass Radiography.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the District during July.

Number of persons attending:-

<u>Group Examined.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>% of Volunteers.</u>
Messrs. Courtaulds Ltd.	131	176	307	63%
Messrs. Whitlock Bros.	237	41	278	83%
Messrs. Rippers Ltd.	427	107	534	81%
School Children.	157	250	407	
Various Firms.	137	70	207	
Public Session & Doctors' Cases.	356	561	917	
National Service Recruits.	5		5	
TOTAL:-	1450	1205	2655	

SECTION G - FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Number on Register:

Power	26
Non-power	44

Number of inspections made: 73

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Number of: Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	17	23	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	53	50	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	1	-	-
TOTAL:	71	74	2	-

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.	2	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient-		3	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective:		4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes:		-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	3	11	-	-	-

